MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) ; (*a*) The minimum qualification prescribed in the Public Service Notification and in the Travancore Service Regulations and the Departmental Examinations for Petty Officers and Peons.

(*b*) Seven.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) A graduate who was a First Grade Petty Officer was promoted to act as Sub-Inspector.

(*e*) Graduates are appointed as clerks or Sub-Inspectors. That cannot be said to be in disregard of the claims of graduate Petty Officers because graduates entering service as Petty Officers do not immediately acquire any claim for promotion as clerks or Sub-Inspectors in the next vacancies.

(*f*) Yes, in deserving cases.

Promotion of Police Constables.

268. *MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) how many first class Constables were promoted as Head Constables in the Traffic Section of the Police Department since the organisation of that section in 1108 ; and

(*b*) the length of service in first class and qualification of persons so promoted ?

MR. R. PITCHU AIYANGAR (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : (*a*) One.

(*b*) 2 years and 3 months. Efficiency and character.

Appointments made by the Commissioner of Police.

269. * MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state, with reference to the period during wich Rao Bahadur Ramanuja Aiyangar was the Commissioner of Police :

(*a*) the number of acting and permanent Inspectors appointed from the rank of Head Constables ;

(*b*) the number of acting and permanent Inspectors appointed from the clerical staff of the department ; and

(*c*) the number of acting, permanent or probationary Inspectors recruited from outside the department ?

MR. R. PITCHU AIYANGAR (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*) : (*a*) 2.

(*b*) 1.

(*c*) 5.

Removal of the Holy Koran from Courts.

270. *MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there were representations, in the old Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council, to remove copies of the Holy Koran from the Courts of the State ; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, what action has been taken by the Government in the matter ?

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RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In accordance with the reply given by the Dewan to two representations made at the 23rd Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, to the effect that (i) the Koran would be kept locked up in a box of which the Judge or the Magistrate would keep the key and (ii) that, if it was found that no Muslim called for the Koran in Courts, for three years, the question of withdrawing the sacred volume from the Courts would be considered, the High Court were requested, in G. O. R. O. C. No. 6058 of 27/Judl., dated the 8th October 1927. to issue the necessary instructions to the subordinate Courts in the matter and to send up to Government statements as to the calls for Koran made in Courts by Muslim parties and witnesses during the course of three years. It was found from the statements received that there had been calls for the Koran in the majority of Civil and Criminal Courts during the years 1103 to 1105. It was therefore ordered in G. O. D. Dis. No. 1726 of 31/Judl., dated the 9th July 1931, that the demand for Koran during those years did not justify the withdrawal of the sacred volume from Law Courts.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : May I know whether there were objections made against the use of the Holy Koran in the courts?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government are not aware.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : Am I to understand that Government do not attach any importance to the representations made in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and Legislative Council urging the need for the removal of Holy Koran from all courts of the State.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government attach very great importance to all these representations and as a result of those representations they have taken necessary action.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : So, am I to understand that, unless the Government are aware of the fact that there is no call for this book from the Muslim litigants and a statement made and reported to Government, no action will be taken by them for the removal of the book from courts?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : There have been calls for the Holy Book.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : May I know whether Government are aware that there is no such call for this book in the courts?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government will enquire into it.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : Is the member aware that an assurance has been given in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly that the Holy Koran used in the courts of the State will be removed or at least they will try it as an experiment?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes; it has been tried, and found that there have been calls for the Koran. The answer is already there.

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